GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

Adapted from the original by
Sarita L. Ricardo

GULLIVER'S
TRAVELS

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Gulliver's Travels

Among the little people of Lilliput
and the Giants of Brobdingnag

Adapted from the original
by
Sarita L. Ricardo

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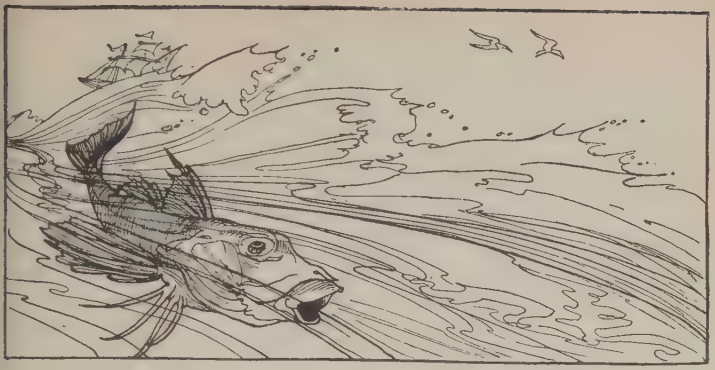
Book I

A Voyage to Lilliput



Chapter 1

*

My father had a small house in Nottinghamshire; I was the third of five sons and was given the name of Lemuel Gulliver. He sent me to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where I stayed three years and worked hard at my studies. After which, as my father could no longer afford to keep me at College, I was bound apprentice to Mr. James Bates, a famous surgeon in London, with whom I stayed four years; and my father now and then sending me a little money, I spent it in

learning navigation and other parts of the mathematics, useful to those who travel, as I always believed it would be some time or other my fortune to do. When I left Mr. Bates I went down to my father in the country, where by his help and that of my Uncle John, and some relations, I got together forty pounds, and a promise of thirty pounds a year to keep me at Leyden. There I studied physic two years and seven months, knowing it would be useful in long voyages.

The last of these voyages not proving very fortunate, I grew weary of the sea and made up my mind to stay at home with my wife and family. I moved to Wapping, where for three years I tried to make my living as a surgeon among the sailors. But it was all of no use, and at last I agreed to go with Captain William Prichard, master of the *Antelope*, who was making a voyage to the South Sea. We set sail from Bristol on May 4, 1699, and our voyage at first was very fortunate. It would

not be proper, for some reasons, to trouble the reader with our adventures in these seas; I will only tell him that on our way to the East Indies we were driven by a violent storm to the north-west of Van Diemen's Land. Twelve of our crew were dead of overwork and bad food, and the rest were very weak. On November 5, which was the beginning of summer in these parts, the weather being very hazy, the seamen spied a rock near the ship; but the wind was so strong that we were driven directly upon it, and the ship split. Six of the crew, of whom I was one, having let down the boat into the sea, managed to get clear of the ship and the rock. We rowed, by my reckoning, about three leagues, till we were able to work no longer, being already worn out with toil while we were in the ship. We therefore trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves, and in about half an hour the boat was upset by a sudden gust of wind from the north and we were thrown into the

sea. What became of the others I cannot tell. I think they were all drowned. For my own part, I swam as fortune directed me, and was pushed forward by the wind and tide. I often let my legs drop, and could feel no bottom; but when I was almost gone and able to struggle no longer, I found I could stand; and by this time the storm was much abated. But I walked nearly a mile, and it must have been about eight o'clock in the evening before I reached shore. I could see no sign of houses or people, and being very tired I lay down on the short grass and slept sounder than ever I remember to have done in my life.

I must have slept about nine hours, for when I awoke it was just daylight. I tried to get up but could not move, for my arms and legs were strongly fastened to the ground, and my hair, which is long and thick, was tied down in the same way. I also felt several thin ropes fastened across my body from my armpits to my thighs. I heard a buzzing noise

about me, but as I could not turn my head, I saw only the sky. In a little time I felt something alive moving on my left leg. It walked gently forward over my chest almost up to my chin; when, looking down as much as I could, I saw it to be a human creature not six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands, and a quiver at his back. In the meantime I felt at least forty more of the same kind following the first. I was in the utmost astonishment, and roared so loud that they all ran back in a fright; and some of them as, I was afterwards told, were hurt with the falls they got by leaping from my sides to the ground. However, they soon came back, and one of them, who ventured so far as to get a full sight of my face, lifting up his hands and eyes by way of admiration, cried out in a shrill but clear voice, 'Hekinah degul.' The others repeated the same words several times, but I did not know what they meant. I lay all this time, as the reader may believe, in great uneasiness; at

length, struggling to get loose, I had the good fortune to break the strings and wrench out the pegs that fastened my left arm to the ground. At the same time with a violent pull, which gave me great pain, I a little loosened the strings that tied down my hair on the left side, so that I was just able to turn my head about two inches. But the creatures ran off a second time before I could seize them, and I heard one of them cry out, 'Tolgo phonael.' At these words I felt more than an hundred arrows, pricking like needles, stick in my left hand. They shot another flight into the air, many of which fell on my body, though I did not feel them, and some on my face, which I at once covered with my left hand.

When this shower of arrows was over I groaned with grief and pain and struggled again to get loose. They then fired another volley larger than the first, and some of them tried to stick me in the sides with their spears. But by good luck I had on a leather waistcoat

'They shot another flight into the air'

which they could not pierce. I thought it best to lie still till night, when, my left hand being already loose, I could easily free myself. As for the people, I had reason to believe I might be a match for the greatest army they could bring against me. When the people saw I was quiet they shot no more arrows, but by the noise they made I knew that more and more of them were crowding about me. For over an hour I heard a knocking like men at work, close to my right ear, and turning my head that way as far as the strings and pegs would let me, I saw a platform about a foot and a half high and large enough to hold four of them at a time, with two or three ladders by which to climb it. From this platform an important-looking person made me a long speech. But first I should say that before he began, he cried out three times, 'Langro dehul san'; whereupon about fifty of the people came and cut the strings that fastened the left side of my head, so that I was able to

'An important-looking person made me a long speech'

turn to the right and see the person who was going to speak to me. He seemed to be middle-aged and was taller than any of the other three who were with him. One of these was a page who held up his train, and looked a little longer than my middle finger. I could not understand a word of the speech. But the speaker often pointed forward, which, as I afterwards found, was towards the chief city, about half a mile distant, where the Emperor had ordered me to be taken. I answered very humbly, and by often putting my finger to my mouth showed him I wanted food. He understood and commanded that several ladders should be put against my sides, on which over a hundred people climbed up and walked towards my mouth with baskets full of meat. In the baskets were shoulders, legs and loins shaped like those of mutton and very well cooked, but smaller than the wings of a lark. I ate them by two or three at a mouthful and took three loaves at a time. They supplied

me as fast as they could, showing great wonder at my size and appetite. I then made another sign that I wanted drink. They saw by my eating that a small quantity would not satisfy me, and being a clever people, they neatly slung up one of their largest barrels, then rolled it towards my hand and beat out the top. I drank it off at one draught, which I might well do, for it did not hold half a pint, and tasted like Burgundy, but much more delicious. They brought me a second barrel, which I drank in the same way, and made signs for more; but they had none to give me. When I had performed these wonders, they shouted for joy, and danced upon my chest, crying several times as they did at first, 'Hekinah degul.' They made me a sign that I should throw down the two barrels, but first warned the people below to stand out of the way, crying aloud, 'Borach mevolah.' When they saw the barrels in the air there was a great shout of 'Hekinah degul.' I confess I

was often tempted, while they were passing backwards and forwards on my body, to seize forty or fifty of the first that came in my reach, and dash them against the ground. But I remembered their arrows and the promises that I had made in my speech and drove these thoughts out of my mind.

Soon I began to feel sleepy, for they had daubed my face and hands with a pleasant-smelling ointment, which in a few minutes took away all the smart of the arrows. Besides, the Emperor's physicians had mixed a sleeping-draught in the barrels of wine. While I slept five hundred carpenters and engineers were set to work to build a great wooden trolley to take me to the city. When this was finished it stood three inches from the ground and ran on twenty-two wheels. It was brought alongside of me as I lay asleep, but the chief difficulty was to lift me on to it. Eighty poles, each one foot high, were put up and very strong cords about as thick as sewing

cotton were fastened by hooks to many bandages, which the workmen had tied round my neck and body. Nine hundred of the strongest men were chosen to draw up these cords by means of many pulleys fastened on the poles, and thus in less than three hours I was raised and slung on to the trolley, and there tied fast. All this, I was told, for while it happened I lay in a deep sleep. Fifteen hundred of the Emperor's largest horses, each about four inches and a half high, were needed to draw me to the city, which, as I said, was half a mile off. About four hours after we begun our journey I was awakened in a very amusing way; for the trolley being stopped for a little while to mend something that had gone wrong, two or three young men had the curiosity to see how I looked when I was asleep. They climbed on to the trolley and, creeping right up to my face, one of them who was an officer in the guards, put the sharp end of his spear a good way up my nose, which tickled me like straw

and made me sneeze myself awake. They stole off quietly and it was three weeks before I knew what had woken me so suddenly. We made a long march the rest of the day, and rested at night with five hundred guards on each side of me, half with torches, and half with bows and arrows, ready to shoot me if I should try to stir. The next morning at sunrise we went on our way and arrived within two hundred yards of the city gates about noon. The Emperor and all his court came out to meet us; but his great officers would not allow him to risk his life by climbing on my body.

They decided to lodge me outside the city in an ancient temple which was the largest building in the country. The great gate fronting the north was about four feet high, and almost two feet wide, so that I could easily creep inside. On either side of the gate was a small window not more than six inches from the ground. To the left-hand window,

the Emperor's blacksmith fastened fifty-nine chains, each almost as thick as a lady's watch-chain, and locked them to my left leg with thirty-six padlocks. Near this temple, on the other side of the high road, which was twenty feet wide, there was a tower, at least five feet high. The Emperor and many of his chief lords climbed to the top of this tower to have a good look at me, as I was told, for I could not see them. It was reckoned that above a hundred thousand people came out of the city to gaze at me; and in spite of my guards, I believe that not fewer than ten thousand mounted my body by the help of ladders. But a proclamation was soon made to forbid this upon pain of death.

When the workmen found that I could not break loose, they cut the strings that bound me and I stood up, feeling as sad as ever in my life. The noise and surprise of the people when they saw me rise and walk cannot be described. The chains that held my left leg

were about two yards long, and gave me not only room to walk backwards and forwards, but being fixed within four inches of the gate, allowed me to creep in and lie at my full length in the temple.

Chapter 2

*

BEING on my feet I was able to see far over the country, which looked like one large garden, for the fields were no bigger than flower-beds and the tallest trees no more than seven feet high. The Emperor had already come down from the tower, and he now rode up to me on horseback, which had like to have cost him dear. For the horse, although very well trained, took fright at what seemed to him a moving mountain, and reared up on his hind legs. But the Emperor, who is an excellent

horseman, kept his seat till his attendants ran in and took the reins. Then he alighted and walked round me, keeping beyond the length of my chain. He ordered his cooks and butlers, who were already prepared, to give me food and drink, which they pushed forward in cartloads. I took these carts and soon emptied them all; twenty of them were filled with meat and ten with drink. The Empress and young princes and princesses, attended by many ladies, sat some way off in their chairs. The Emperor is taller by almost the breadth of my nail than any of his court, and very kingly in all his movements. His dress was plain and simple, but he had on his head a light helmet of gold with a plume on the crest. He held his sword drawn in his hand to defend himself if I should happen to break loose. It was almost three inches long; and the hilt and scabbard were gold enriched with diamonds. His voice was shrill but very clear; and I could distinctly hear it when I stood up.

'They pushed forward food and drink in cartloads'

He spoke often to me, and I answered, but neither of us could understand the other. There were several of his learned men with him whom he ordered to speak to me. I answered them in as many languages as I could, but it was no use.

After about two hours the Emperor left me with a strong guard to keep off the crowd, who were eager to get near me. In spite of this guard some of the people had the daring to shoot their arrows at me as I sat on the ground by the door of my house, and one arrow just missed my left eye. Upon which the colonel of the guard ordered six of the ringleaders to be bound and handed over to me for punishment, and some of his soldiers seizing them, pushed them forward with the butt-ends of their spears into my reach. I took them all in my right hand, put five of them into my coat pocket, and as for the sixth, I opened my mouth as if I would eat him alive. The poor man squalled terribly

'They saw me take out my penknife'

and the colonel and his officers were in much pain, especially when they saw me take out my penknife. But I soon put them out of their fear, for I looked at him kindly, cut the strings that bound him and put him gently on the ground, where he ran away at once. Taking them one by one out of my pocket, I treated the rest in the same way, and I saw that the soldiers and the people were much pleased with my mercy.

Towards night I managed to creep into my house, where I lay on the floor. I had to sleep in this way for two weeks, during which time the Emperor gave order to have a bed made for me. To do this, a hundred and fifty of their beds were brought to my house in carriages and sewn together. Blankets and sheets were made for me in the same way. Meanwhile the Emperor held many councils to decide what should be done with me; and I was afterwards told by one of the highest nobles, a particular friend of mine, that the

court was much troubled. They feared I might break loose, and that my food would be very expensive and cause a famine. Sometimes they thought of starving me, or of shooting me in the face and hands with poisoned arrows which would soon kill me; but then they remembered that the smell of so large a body might cause a plague in the city and spread it through all the kingdom. While they were talking, some officers of the army came to the great council chamber to tell the Emperor how kindly I had used the six prisoners, and this so pleased His Majesty and the councillors that a proclamation was made, bidding all villages within nine hundred yards of the city to send me every morning, six bullocks, forty sheep and bread and wine. I was given six hundred servants, who were to live in tents on each side of my door. Three hundred tailors were ordered to make me a suit of clothes and six of His Majesty's greatest scholars to teach me the language. All these

orders were obeyed; and in about three weeks I began to understand their language.

While I was learning, the Emperor often visited me and even helped my masters in teaching me. We were soon able to talk together; and the first words I said to him were, 'Will you set me free?' These I repeated to him every day on my knees. He answered that in time he and his council would think of it; but first I must swear a peace with him and his kingdom and allow two of his officers to search my pockets for any dangerous weapons which I might carry.

I answered that I was ready to strip myself and turn out my pockets before him. But he told me that by the laws of the kingdom his officers must do the work. I therefore lifted up the two gentlemen and put them into my coat pocket, where they made a list of everything they saw, which I have translated into English, and it is word for word as follows:

'1. In the right coat pocket of the great Man Mountain we found only a piece of coarse cloth, large enough to be a carpet for Your Majesty's drawing-room.

'2. In his waistcoat pocket we found a great bundle of thin white stuff, tied with a strong rope and marked with black figures, which we humbly think to be writings.

'3. In the left pocket was a kind of machine with twenty long poles sticking out of it. We suppose that the Man Mountain combs his hair with this.

'4. In the smaller pocket on the right-hand side were several round flat pieces of white and yellow metal, so heavy that I and my friend could hardly lift them.

'5. Out of one of his waistcoat pockets hung a great silver chain, with a wonderful machine at the end of it. He held this machine to our ears and it made a noise like a water-mill.

'This is an exact list of what we found in

the pockets of the Man Mountain, signed and sealed on the fourth day of the eighty-ninth moon of Your Majesty's reign.

'CLEFRIN FRELOCK,
'MARSI FRELOCK.'

One private pocket I did not show them, for I had in it a pair of spectacles and some other things which I feared might be spoilt if let out of my sight. All my other goods were taken to the Emperor and were given back to me when he had looked at them.

The horses of the army and the royal stables having been daily led before me, were no longer shy, but would come up to my very feet without starting. The riders would leap them over my hand as I held it on the ground; and one of the Emperor's huntsmen on a large charger took my foot, shoe and all, which was a very daring leap. One day I had the good fortune to think of a clever way of amusing the Emperor. I ordered nine sticks, each

two feet high and as thick as an ordinary walking-stick, to be brought me.

Next morning the sticks came, each on a cart drawn by eight horses. I fixed them firmly in the ground in a square, tied my handkerchief over their tops, pulling it as tight as a drum. When I had finished my work, I asked the Emperor if a troop of his best horses might come and exercise upon this plain. He agreed, and I lifted up twenty soldiers on horseback. As soon as they got into order, they divided into two parties, fought mock battles, fired blunt arrows, drew their swords, attacked and retreated, and in short showed the best military discipline I ever saw.

The Emperor was so delighted that he ordered the show to be held for several days, and once was pleased to be lifted up so that he could give the word of command. He even talked the Empress into letting me hold her in her chair, about two yards away from

the stage, so that she was able to see everything. Fortunately for me no serious accident ever happened; but once a fiery horse, pawing with his hoof, struck a hole in my handkerchief, and, his foot slipping, he overthrew his rider and himself. But I came at once to the rescue, covered the hole with one hand and lifted down the soldiers and their horses with the other. The horse that fell strained its left shoulder, but the rider was not hurt. I mended my handkerchief as well as I could; but I would not trust the strength of it any more for such dangerous amusements.

About two or three days before I was set free, as I was pleasing the court with these games, a message came to the Emperor that some of his subjects, riding near the place where I was first found, had seen a large black thing, very oddly shaped, lying on the ground. At first they thought it was alive, but as it lay on the grass without moving they found they were mistaken. Some of them

had walked all round it; and by climbing on each other's shoulders had got to the top, which was flat and even, and stamping upon it they found it was hollow inside. They were sure it must belong to the Man Mountain, and if His Majesty pleased, they would undertake to bring it with only five horses. I at once guessed what they meant and was very glad.

It seems that my hat, which being fastened to my head with a string had stuck on all the time I was swimming, must have fallen off after I came to shore. I told the Emperor what it was and begged him to order it to be brought to me as soon as possible. And the next day the wagoners arrived with it, but not in very good condition. They had bored two holes in the brim, and fastened two hooks in them; these hooks were tied by a long cord to the horses, and my hat was dragged along for over half an English mile. But the ground in that country is so smooth that it was less hurt than I had expected.

I had so often asked to be set free that the Emperor and his councillors at length agreed to do so, if I would make them the following promises. These I swore to keep, holding my right foot in my left hand and placing the middle finger of my right hand on the top of my head, and my thumb on the tip of my right ear, which is the way oaths are taken in Lilliput. I have translated the promises into English so that all may read them.

'1. The Man Mountain shall not leave Our country without Our consent.

'2. He shall not come into the city without Our order.

'3. He shall only walk on the high roads and not try to walk or lie down in the fields.

'4. As he walks he shall take the greatest care not to tread on any of Our subjects, their horses or their carriages. Nor shall he take any of Our subjects up in his hand without their consent.

'The way oaths are taken in Lilliput'

'5. He shall be Our ally against Our enemies in the Island of Blefuscu and do his best to destroy their fleet, which is now ready to invade us.'

When I had made these promises my chains were unlocked and I was set free. The Emperor watched the whole ceremony; I thanked him by falling on my face at his feet, but he ordered me to rise and said that he hoped I would be of use to his country.

The first favour that I asked, when I had been set free, was that I might be allowed to see Mildendo, the chief city. To this the Emperor gave his consent, and all the people were warned of my coming. The wall which surrounds the city is two feet and a half high, and at least eleven inches broad, so that a coach and horses may be driven safely round it. I stepped over the great West Gate and walked very carefully through the two main streets, wearing only my short waistcoat, for

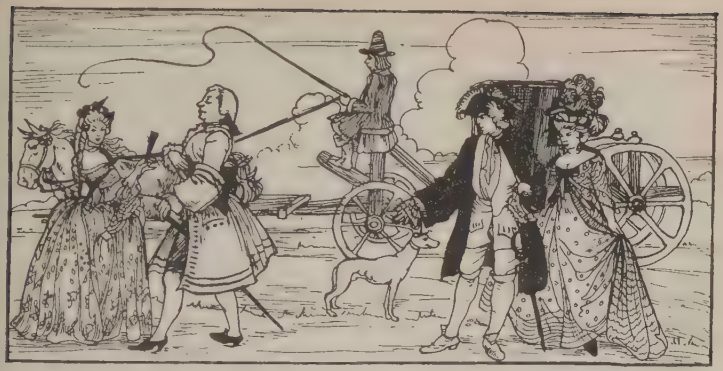
fear that my coat might brush against the buildings and hurt them. I walked with the greatest care, to avoid treading on any people who might be in the streets; although they had all had strict orders to keep inside their houses. The garret windows and roofs were crowded with those who wanted to see me pass, and I thought I had never seen so many people in all my travels. The city is an exact square, each side of the wall being five hundred feet long. The two great streets which run across and divide the city into four quarters, are five feet wide. The lanes and by-streets, which I could not enter, are from twelve to eighteen inches. The city can hold five hundred thousand people; the houses are from three to five stories high, and the shops and markets are well stocked.

The Emperor's palace is in the middle of the city, where the two great streets meet. It is shut in by a wall of two feet high, which stands twenty feet away from the building. I

had His Majesty's permission to step over the wall, and as the space between it and the palace is so wide I easily managed this. The outer court is forty feet square, and shuts in two other courts; in the inner court are the royal apartments, which I much wanted to see, but found it very difficult; for the great gates leading from one courtyard into another were only eighteen inches high and seven inches wide, and the buildings in the outer court were at least five feet high, so that I could not step over them without hurting the wall. At the same time, the Emperor had a great wish that I should see the magnificence of his palace; but this I was not able to do for three days, which I spent in cutting down, with my knife, some of the largest trees in the royal park, about a hundred yards away from the city. Of these trees I made two stools, each about three feet high, strong enough to bear my weight. The people having been warned a second time, I went again through

'I went again through the city'

the city to the palace, with my two stools in my hands. When I came to the wall of the inner courtyard, I stood upon one stool, and lifted the other gently over the wall. I then stepped over very easily from one stool to the other, and drew up the first after me with a hooked stick. In this way I reached the inner court, and lying down upon my side, put my eyes close to the windows which had been left open on purpose. There I saw the finest rooms that can be imagined. The Empress and the young princes were each in their own apartments. And Her Majesty was pleased to smile at me and gave me her hand to kiss out of the window.



Chapter 3

*

One morning, about a fortnight after I had been set free, Reldresal, the Emperor's chief minister, came to my house, followed only by one servant. He ordered his coach to wait some way off, and asked for an hour's talk with me. I offered to lie down so that he could reach my ear more easily, but he chose rather to let me hold him in my hand. He told me that Lilliput and the neighbouring empire of Blefuscu had been at war for thirty-six moons, and that a great fleet was now

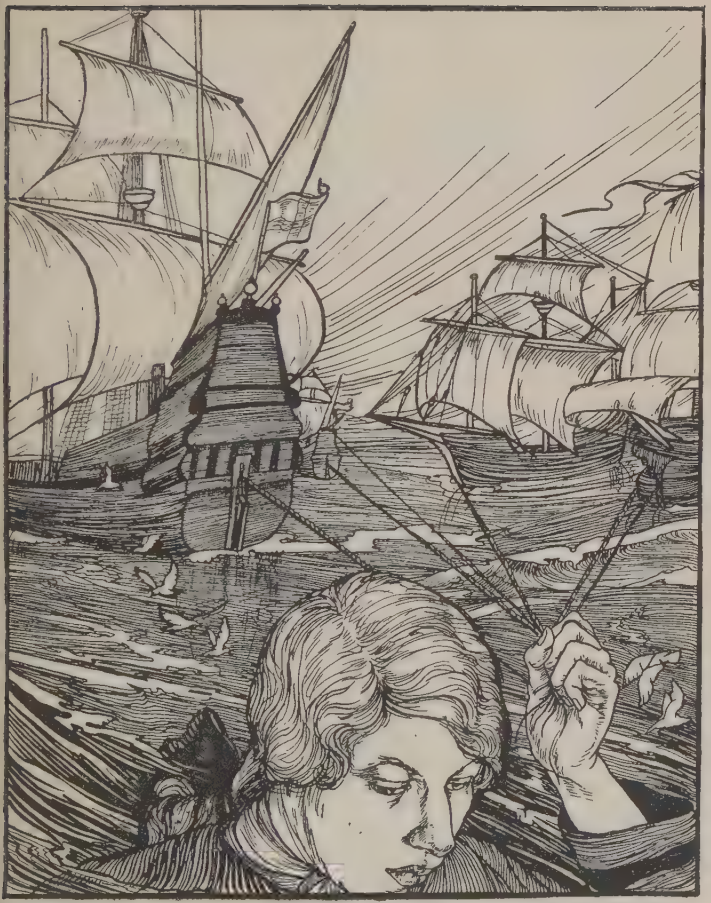
ready to invade us. I promised to do my best to defend the Emperor; and began to think out a plan by which I could capture the enemy's ships. Blefuscu is an island lying to the north-east of Lilliput, and parted from it only by a sea of eight hundred yards wide. I had not seen this enemy empire, and I was now careful not to go on that side of the coast, for fear of being sighted by one of their ships, for they had not yet heard of me. I told the Emperor of my plan to seize the enemy's fleet, which, as our scouts said, lay at anchor in the harbour, ready to sail with the first fair wind. The oldest sailors told me that even at high tide the sea between the two countries is not more than six feet deep. I walked towards the north-east coast, over against Blefuscu, where, lying down behind a hillock, I took out my field-glass and looked at the enemy's fleet, about fifty men-of-war all anchored together.

I then came back to my house, and gave orders for a large quantity of the strongest

rope and bars of iron. The rope was about as thick as coarse sewing-cotton and the bars of the length and size of knitting-needles. I trebled the rope to make it stronger and twisted three of the iron bars together, bending the ends into a hook. Having thus fixed fifty hooks to as many cables, I went back to the north-east coast, and taking off my coat, shoes and stockings, walked into the sea, in my leather waistcoat, about half an hour before high tide. I waded as fast as I could, and swam in the middle for about thirty yards till I felt ground again. In this way I reached the fleet in less than half an hour. The enemy were so frightened when they saw me that they leapt out of their ships and swam to shore. I then took my ropes and, fastening a hook to the hole at the prow of each ship, I tied all the cords together at their ends. While I was doing this the enemy shot several thousand arrows, many of which stuck in my hands and face, and besides, the painful smart

worried me very much as I worked. My greatest fear was for my eyes, which I should certainly have lost, if I had not suddenly thought of my spectacles. These I took out and fastened as strongly as I could upon my nose, and thus armed went boldly on with my work, in spite of the enemy's arrows, many of which struck against the glass without doing any harm. I had now fastened all the hooks, and taking the knot in my hand, began to pull. But not a ship would stir, for they were all held fast by their anchors. I therefore let go the cord, and leaving the hooks fixed to the ships I cut with my knife the ropes that fastened the anchors, getting about two hundred shots in my face and hands. Then I took up the knotted end of the ropes to which my hooks were tied, and with the greatest ease drew fifty of the enemy's largest men-of-war after me.

The Blefuscudians had not the least idea of what I meant to do and they were utterly astonished. They had seen me cut the anchor



'Drew fifty of the enemy's largest men-of-war after me'

ropes, and thought that I meant only to let the ships run adrift, or collide with each other. But when they saw the whole fleet moving in order, and saw me pulling at the end, they shouted with sorrow and despair. When I was out of danger, I stopped a while to pick off the arrows that stuck in my hands and face, rubbing on some of the same ointment that was given me on my first arrival. I then took off my spectacles, and waiting about an hour, till the tide was a little fallen, I waded through the sea with the ships, and arrived safely at the royal port of Lilliput.

The Emperor and his whole court stood on the shore, awaiting the end of this great adventure. They saw the ships moving forward in a large half-moon, but could not see me, for I was up to my breast in water. When I reached the middle of the sea, they were still in doubt, because I was under water to my neck. The Emperor, therefore, thought that I had been drowned and that the enemy's

fleet was coming to attack him. But he was soon eased of his fears, for the sea growing shallower with every step, I came in a short time within hearing, and holding up the end of the rope to which the fleet was fastened, I cried in a loud voice, 'Long live the King of Lilliput.' His Majesty met me at my landing with great praise, and made me a nardac upon the spot, which is the highest title of honour that he can give.

The Emperor wished that I should bring him all the rest of the enemy's ships and help him to conquer their whole country. But I tried to make him see how unwise this would be, and told him plainly, that I would never help to bring a free and brave people into slavery. This answer was so different from the Emperor's wishes that he never forgave me. About three weeks after this, six ambassadors arrived from Blefuscu with humble offers of peace. I helped them as much as I could, and when the peace was made they

gave me an invitation to visit their country. The Emperor said I might go if I pleased, but he seemed angry and spoke very coldly to me. However, I soon, as I thought, had a chance of doing him another great service. I was woken at midnight by the cries of many hundred people at the door, I heard the word 'burglum' again and again; and some of the courtiers making their way through the crowd, begged me to come at once to the palace, where Her Majesty's room had been set on fire by a careless maid of honour, who had fallen asleep while she was reading. I got up at once; orders were given to clear the way before me, and it being a moonlight night, I managed to get to the palace without trampling on any of the people. I found that they had put up ladders, and that there were plenty of buckets, but the water was some way off. These buckets were about the size of a large thimble; the poor people handed them to me as fast as they could, but the flames were so

fierce that they did little good. I might easily have stifled the fire with my coat, but I had left it behind in my hurry. Everything seemed hopeless, and this magnificent palace would have been burnt to the ground, if I had not suddenly thought of a plan. Looking round, I caught sight of the large pond into which all the dirty water of the city is drained; without a thought I pulled off both my shoes and filling them with the water poured it on the burning palace. As each shoe held as much as at least twenty of their buckets, the fire was put out in three minutes, and the rest of the building was saved.

It was now daylight, and I went back to my house without waiting to talk to the Emperor; because although I had done him a great piece of service, yet I thought he might be angry. For by the laws of the land it is forbidden for any one to empty dirty water near the palace. But I was a little comforted by a message from His Majesty that he would give orders for my

pardon. Still, I was told that the Empress was very angry at what I had done, that she had made up her mind never again to use those rooms, and had vowed to be revenged.

Here it may amuse the curious reader, if I give some account of my way of living in this country, where I spent nine months and thirteen days. I made for myself a good enough table and chair out of the largest trees in the royal park. Two hundred needlewomen were needed to make me shirts and linen, for my bed and table, all of the strongest and coarsest kind they could get, which, however, they were forced to sew together in several folds because it was so thin. The needlewomen measured me as I lay on the ground; one standing at my neck and another at my middle, they stretched between them a strong cord, which a third woman measured with an inch-long ruler. Then they measured my right thumb and were quite satisfied. For they knew that twice round the thumb is once

round the wrist, and so were able to work out the size of my neck and waist. And with the help of my old shirt, which I laid out on the floor for a pattern, they fitted me exactly. Three hundred tailors were kept busy in the same way to make me clothes; but they had another arrangement for measuring me. I knelt down and they put up a ladder from the ground to my neck, then one of them climbed up and let down a rope from my collar to the floor, which gave them the right length for my coat. But my waist and arms I measured myself. When my clothes were finished, which was done in my house, for the largest of theirs would not have been able to hold them, they looked like the patchwork made by ladies in England, only mine were all the same colour.

I had a hundred cooks, who prepared my food in little huts built round about my house.

I always took up twenty waiters in my hand and put them on the table; a hundred more stood below on the ground, some with

dishes of meat, and some with barrels of wine and other drink slung on their shoulders; which the waiters on the table drew up as I wanted it, by means of cords, as we draw a bucket up a well in Europe. A dish of their meat was a good mouthful, and a barrel of their wine a reasonable drink. Their mutton is not as fine as ours, but their beef is excellent. I have had a sirloin so large that I have been forced to make three bites of it; but this is rare. My servants were astonished to see me eat it bones and all, as in our country we do the leg of a lark. Their geese and turkeys I usually ate at a mouthful, and I confess they are much nicer than ours. I could take up twenty or thirty of their smaller birds at the end of my knife.

One day His Majesty, having been told of my way of living, asked that he and his royal Queen, with the young princes and princesses, might have the happiness, as he was pleased to call it, of dining with me. When they

arrived, I placed them in chairs of state upon my table just in front of me, with their guards about them. Flimnap, the Lord High Treasurer, came with his white staff; and I saw that he often looked at me in an unfriendly way. But I pretended to take no notice and ate more than usual in honour of my dear country as well as to fill the court with wonder. I have some secret reasons for believing that this visit from His Majesty gave Flimnap a chance to do me a bad turn. He had always been my enemy, and now he pointed out to the Emperor that my food cost over a million and a half sprugs, which is their biggest gold coin, and advised him to get rid of me as soon as possible.

When anyone came to visit me I always went to the door, and after wishing them good-day, took up the coach and two horses very carefully in my hands, for if there were six horses the coachman always unharnessed four, and put them on the table, where I had fixed a movable rim quite round,

of five inches high, to stop accidents. I have often had four coaches and horses at once on my table, full of visitors. I sat in my chair, turning towards them, and while I was busy with one set, the coachman would drive the others gently round my table. I have passed many an afternoon very pleasantly in this way.

While I was making ready to pay my visit to the Emperor of Blefuscu, an important person of the court came to my house very secretly at night in a closed carriage. The coachman was sent away. I put the carriage, with his lordship in it, into my coat pocket; and giving orders to a trusty servant to say that I was ill and had gone to sleep, I fastened the door of my house, and placing the carriage on the table, sat down by it. I saw at once that my friend was very troubled and asked him the cause of it. He replied that the Emperor was about to have me punished as a traitor. I asked in great surprise what I had done. He answered that I had refused to

conquer the Blefuscudians, and had dared to empty dirty water over the palace. Flimnap, my enemy, had suggested that I should be killed in a very painful way, by setting fire to my house at night, while the general waited outside with twenty thousand men armed with poisoned arrows to shoot me in the hands and face. But the Emperor was so kind that he had made up his mind not to kill me, but only to put out both my eyes. My friend told me that in three days' time twenty doctors, armed with sharp-pointed arrows, would come to my house and shoot out my eyeballs as I lay on the ground. When he had said this, his lordship went away as secretly as he had come, and I made up my mind to leave the country as quickly as possible. I went to that side of the island where the fleet lay, and seized a large warship. I then took off my clothes and put them and my blanket into the ship which I pulled after me through the water. Thus half swimming and half wading I reached the

royal port of Blefuscu, where the people had long expected me. They lent me two guides to show me the way to the chief city. These noble persons I held in my hand till I came within two hundred yards of the gates. I then set them on the ground, and asked them to tell the Emperor of my arrival. In about an hour he rode out with all his court to welcome me. I lay on the ground to kiss his hand, but I did not tell him why I had left Lilliput so suddenly.

Three days after my arrival, as I was walking by the shore, I saw something far out at sea that looked like an overturned boat. I pulled off my shoes and stockings and waded out about three hundred yards. The tide slowly bringing it nearer, I saw that it was a real boat which some ship must have lost in a storm. I went at once to the city and asked the Emperor to lend me twenty of the largest ships he had. This fleet sailed round the coast while I went back the shortest way to the

place where I had seen the boat. When the ships came up, I stripped myself and waded until I came within a hundred yards of the boat, after which I had to swim till I got up to it. The sailors at once threw me a rope, which I fastened to a hole in the boat. But I found all my trouble of no use, for being out of my depth I was unable to work. All I could do was to swim behind the boat and push it forward as often as possible with my hands. At last I was just able to hold my chin above the water. I rested two or three minutes and then gave the boat a shove, and so on, till the sea reached no higher than my armpits. The worst now being over, I fastened my other ropes to the boat, and then to nine of the ships. The wind blew towards the shore, the sailors towed and I shoved until we arrived within forty yards of land.

When the tide was out, I managed with the help of two thousand men, ropes and machines to turn the boat on its right side;

and to my delight I found that it was very little hurt. I told the Emperor that fortune had sent me this boat, so that I might go back to my own country; and begged him to let me have supplies to fit it up. He kindly promised to give me whatever I wanted. Five hundred workmen were needed to make two sails for my boat, which they did by sewing together thirteen folds of their strongest linen. I got my ropes by twisting together ten, twenty or thirty of the strongest of theirs. A great stone that I found by the seashore served me for an anchor. With much pains I cut down some of the largest trees for oars and masts, and His Majesty's carpenters helped me in smoothing them after I had done the rough work. In about a month everything was ready, and I asked the Emperor's leave to set out. He and the royal family came to say farewell to me, and I lay down on my face to kiss their hands. His Majesty gave me fifty purses with two hun-

dred sprugs in each of them, and his picture in full length, which I at once put into one of my gloves to keep it from being hurt.

I stored the boat with the bodies of a hundred oxen, three hundred sheep, and as much food as four hundred cooks could get ready. I also took with me some live cows and sheep and a good bundle of hay and a bag of corn for them to eat. I would have taken some men, but the Emperor did not allow it. I set sail on the twenty-fourth of September, 1701, at six o'clock in the morning. After three days I saw a sail and hailed the ship, but could get no answer. Fortunately, the wind went down and I was able to gain on it. In half an hour the sailors sighted me and at once hung out their flag and fired a gun. My heart leapt when I saw their English colours. I put my cows and sheep in my pocket, and climbed on board. The ship was an English merchantman on the way home from Japan. The captain treated me very kindly, but when I told

him my story he thought I was mad. However, I showed him my cows and sheep and the Emperor's picture, and he was forced to believe me. We had a most fortunate voyage, the only mishap being that one of my sheep was eaten by a rat. I stayed two months with my wife and family, after which, as I still longed to see foreign countries, I took leave of them with many tears and went on board the *Adventurer*, a merchant ship bound for India. But what happened to me on this voyage must be told in the second part of my travels.

Book II

A Voyage to Brobdingnag

Chapter I

*

I took ship, as I said at the end of the first book of my travels, on board the *Adventurer*, bound for India. We had a good wind till we arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, where we landed for fresh water. But here finding that our ship had a leak, we unloaded our goods and spent the winter in port; and our captain falling ill we were not able to leave the Cape till the end of March. We then set sail, and had a good voyage till we passed the Straits of Madagascar. Here a great storm

sprung up and drove the ship so far out of her course that not even the oldest sailor on board could tell what part of the world we were in. Our food held out well, the ship was weather-tight, and our crew all in good health, but we had great need of water.

On June 16, 1703, a boy on the top mast sighted land. The next day we came within full view of a great country, we cast anchor some way off and our captain sent twelve men in the ship's boat with tubs to hold water, if any was to be found. I asked to go with them that I might see the country and make what discoveries I could. When we came to land, we saw no river or spring, nor any sign of people. Our men, therefore, wandered on the shore, looking for fresh water near the sea. And I walked alone about a mile inland, where I found that the country was all barren and rocky. I now began to feel tired, and seeing nothing interesting, I walked slowly back towards the shore. But when I came in

sight of the sea, I saw that our men had got into the boat and were rowing for life to the ship. I was going to holla to them, although it would have been no use, when I saw a huge creature walking after them in the sea as fast as he could. He waded not much deeper than his knee and took huge strides. But our men had a good start, and the sea being full of sharp-pointed rocks, the monster was not able to catch them. This, I was afterwards told, for I dared not stay to see what would happen; but ran as fast as I could the way I had come and then climbed up a steep hill which gave me a view of the country. I found it planted with crops, but what first surprised me was the length of the grass, which in the hay fields was about twenty feet high.

Climbing down, I came on what I thought to be a high road, though it was only a foot-path through a barley field. Here I walked for some time, but could see little on either side, for the barley stalks, which were about

forty feet high, shut out the view. It took me an hour to walk to the end of this field, which was fenced in with a hedge of at least a hundred and twenty feet high; the trees were so tall that I could not guess their height. There was a stile leading from this field into the next. It had four steps, and a stone to get over when you came to the top. It was impossible for me to climb this, because every step was six feet high, and the top stone about twenty. I was trying to find a gap in the hedge, when I saw a man as huge as the one who had chased our boat, coming through the next field towards the stile. He looked as tall as a church steeple and took about ten yards at every step. I was filled with fear and amazement, and ran to hide myself in the corn. Peeping out, I saw him getting over the stile and heard him call in a huge voice to some one in the next field. But the sound was so high in the air that at first I thought it was thunder. In answer to his call seven monsters like him-

self came towards him with reaping-hooks in their hands, each hook being about as big as six scythes. These people were not so well-dressed as the first man, whose servants they seemed to be; for after he had spoken, they came to reap the field in which I was hiding. I kept as far from them as I could; but I found it very difficult to move, for the corn stalks often grew so closely together, that I could hardly squeeze between them. However, I managed to go forward until I came to a part of the field where the corn had been beaten down by the wind and rain. Here it was impossible for me to move a step; for the stalks were so matted that I could not creep between them and the beards of the fallen ears so strong and pointed that they pierced through my clothes into my flesh. At the same time I heard the reapers not more than a hundred yards behind me. Being quite worn out, I lay down between two ridges and heartily wished I might there end my days. I sorrowed for my wife

and children, and wept to think of my own folly in undertaking a second voyage against the advice of all my friends. In this terrible moment I could not help remembering Lilliput, where the people had thought me the largest creature in the world and I had been able to carry off a whole fleet and do so many other wonders. I thought sadly, that to these giants I should seem as small and unimportant as a Lilliputian would in England, and I expected to be eaten by the first who found me.

Frightened as I was, I could not help thinking of all these things; until one of the reapers came within ten yards of the ridge where I lay. I feared that with his next step I should be squashed to death under his foot or cut in two with his reaping-hook. Therefore, just as he was going to move, I screamed as loud as I could. At this the huge creature trod short, and looking round about him for some time, at last saw me as I lay on the ground. He stood a moment, as though he feared that

'I feared that with his next step I should be squashed to death under his foot'

I might scratch or bite if he touched me. At last he plucked up courage, took hold of me by the middle between his thumb and finger, and held me up within three yards of his eyes so as to see me better. I guessed what he wanted, and making up my mind not to struggle, I kept quite still while he held me in the air over sixty feet above the ground, and squeezed me very hard for fear I should slip through his fingers. All I dared to do was to lift my eyes to the sun and stretching out my arms to speak some words in a very humble voice. For I feared every moment that he would dash me against the ground as we do any little hateful animal we wish to kill. But luckily he seemed pleased with my voice and began to be interested in me; wondering to hear me speak, although he could not understand the words. In the meantime, I could not help groaning and shedding tears, and turning my head towards my side; letting him know as well as I could how much the

squeezing of his thumb and finger hurt me. He seemed to understand, for lifting up the flap of his pocket, he put me gently into it and ran along with me to his master, who was the farmer I had first seen in the field.

After they had talked a little, this farmer took a small piece of straw about the size of a walking-stick and poked it under the flaps of my coat, which he seemed to think was part of my natural skin. He blew my hair back to take a better look at my face. He called his servants, and asked them, as I was afterwards told, whether they had ever seen any other little creature like me in the field. He then put me gently on the ground on all fours; but I got up at once and walked slowly backwards and forwards, to let them see that I did not mean to run away. They all sat down in a circle to watch me. I pulled off my hat and made a low bow to the farmer. I fell on my knees and lifting up my eyes and hands, spoke several words as loud as I could. I took a

purse of gold out of my pocket and gave it to the farmer. He held it in the palm of his hand, then put it close to his eye to see what it was. And afterwards turned it over several times with the point of a pin, which he took out of his sleeve, but he could not understand it. I therefore made a sign that he should put his hand on the ground. I then took the purse and, opening it, poured all the gold into his palm. I saw him wet the tip of his little finger with his tongue, and take up first one and then another of the largest coins, but he could not understand what they were. He made me a sign to put the money into the purse and the purse back in my pocket, which after offering it to him several times, I thought it best to do.

By this time the farmer was certain that I must be a human being. He spoke often to me, and the sound of his voice pierced my ears like thunder, but the words were clear enough. I answered as loudly as I could in

several languages, and he often laid his ear on the ground within two yards of me. But all in vain, for neither of us could understand the other. He then sent his servants to their work, and taking his handkerchief out of his pocket, he doubled it and spread it on his left hand. This he placed flat on the ground, making me a sign to step into it; which I could easily do, for it was not more than one foot high. I thought it best to obey and, for fear of falling, laid myself at full length upon the handkerchief. He wrapped the ends round me for safety and in this way carried me home to his house. There he called his wife and showed me to her; but she screamed and ran back as women in England do at the sight of a toad or a spider. However, when she saw my behaviour, and how well I obeyed her husband's signs, she got over her fear, and became very fond of me.

It was now about twelve o'clock and a servant brought in the dinner. It was one

good dish of meat, fit for a simple farmer, in a plate about twenty-four feet wide. The company were the farmer and his wife, three children, and an old grandmother. When they had sat down, the farmer placed me some way off from him on the table, which stood thirty feet from the floor. I was in a terrible fright and kept as far as I could from the edge for fear of falling. The wife minced a bit of meat, then crumbled some bread on a plate and put it before me. I made her a low bow, took out my knife and fork, and began to eat, which sight gave them great delight. The mistress sent her maid for a small cup which held about two gallons, and filled it with drink. I lifted it with great difficulty in both hands and drank to her ladyship's health, saying the words as loud as I could in English. This made them all laugh so much that I was almost deafened with the noise. Then the master made me a sign to come up to his plate. But as I walked on the table, my mind being full

of other things, I stumbled against a crust and fell flat on my face, but was not hurt. I got up at once, and seeing that they were very much troubled, I took my hat, which I held under my arm out of good manners, and waving it over my head, shouted hurray three times, to show that I had come to no harm. But as I walked towards my master, his youngest son, a bright boy of about ten years old, who sat next to his father, took me up by the legs, and held me so high in the air, that I trembled in every limb. But the farmer snatched me from him, and at the same time gave him such a box on the left ear as would have knocked down a whole troop of English horses, ordering him to be taken from the table. But being afraid that this boy might owe me a spite and well remembering how mischievous all children are to sparrows, rabbits, young kittens and puppy dogs, I fell on my knees and, pointing to the boy, made my master understand that I wished his son to be for-

given. The father gave way, and the boy took his seat again. I then went to him and kissed his hand, which my master took and made him stroke me gently with it.

In the middle of dinner my mistress's favourite cat jumped into her lap. I heard a noise behind me like a dozen machines at work, and turning my head I found that it was the purring of this animal. She seemed three times larger than a bull and the fierceness of her looks altogether upset me; though I stood at the other end of the table, over fifty yards off, and though my mistress held her fast for fear she might give a spring and seize me in her claws. But there was really no danger, for the cat took no notice of me, even when my master put me within three yards of her. And as I have always been told and found it true in my travels that to run away or show fear before a fierce animal is a sure way to make it attack you, I made up my mind to show no fear. I walked boldly five or six

'Three or four dogs came into the room'

times in front of the cat's very head and came within half a yard of her. At this she drew back as if she were more afraid of me than I of her. I was less worried about the dogs, three or four of which came into the room as is usual at a farm. One was a mastiff as large as four elephants, and another a greyhound, taller but not so large.

When dinner was almost done, the nurse came in with a child of a year old in her arms. He saw me at once and began to cry to have me to play with. The mother stupidly took me up and held me out to the child, who seized me by the middle and put my head in his mouth. I roared so loud, that he was frightened and let me drop, and I should certainly have broken my neck if the mother had not held out her apron to catch me. To quiet the baby, the nurse shook a rattle which was a kind of hollow tube filled with great stones and fastened by a rope to the child's waist.

When dinner was done, my master went back to his men, and, as I could understand, gave his wife strict orders to take care of me. I was very tired and wished to sleep, and my mistress seeing this, she put me on her own bed, and covered me with a clean white handkerchief, which was larger and rougher than a ship's sail. I slept about two hours, and dreamt I was home with my wife and children, which added to my sorrow when I awoke and found myself alone in a vast room, between two and three hundred feet wide and about two hundred high, lying in a bed twenty yards wide. My mistress was gone about her household affairs and had locked me in. While I was thus alone, two rats crept up the curtains and ran smelling backwards and forwards on my bed. One of them came almost up to my face, at which I rose in a fright and drew my sword to defend myself. These horrible animals had the boldness to attack me on both sides, and one of them got

its front feet on my collar. But I had the good fortune to rip up his stomach with my sword before he could do me any harm. He fell down at my feet; and the other, seeing what had happened, ran away. But not without one good wound on the back, which I gave him as he fled and made the blood run trickling from him. After this adventure, I walked slowly up and down on the bed to get back my breath. These rats were about the size of a large mastiff, but much more nimble and fierce, so that, if I had taken off my sword before I went to sleep, I should certainly have been torn to pieces and eaten. I measured the tail of the dead rat, and found it to be two yards long all but an inch. But I felt too sick to pull the body off the bed where it lay, still bleeding. I saw that it was not quite dead, and with a strong slash across the neck, I finished my work. Soon after my mistress came into the room, and seeing me all bloody, ran and lifted me up in her hand. I

pointed to the dead rat, smiling, and making other signs to show I was not hurt. At which she was very glad, and called the maid to take up the dead rat with a pair of tongs and throw it out of the window. Then she put me on a table, where I showed her my sword all bloody, and wiping it on my coat tail, stuck it back in the scabbard.

Chapter 2

*

My mistress had a daughter of nine years old, a forward child for her age, very clever at sewing and at dressing her doll. She and her mother managed to fit up the doll's cradle for me in time for that night. The cradle was put into a small drawer and the drawer placed on a hanging shelf to be out of reach of the rats. This was my bed all the time I stayed with these people; though it was made more comfortable as I learnt their language and was able to tell them what I wanted. This young

girl was so handy that after I had once or twice taken off my clothes in front of her, she was able to dress and undress me, though I never gave her the trouble when she would let me do it myself. She made me seven shirts and some other clothes of the thinnest cloth that could be got, but it was coarser than our sackcloth. These she always washed for me with her own hands. She was also my school-mistress to teach me the language. When I pointed to anything she told me the name of it, so that in a few days I was able to call for whatever I wanted. She was very good-natured, and not more than forty feet high, being small for her age. She gave me the name of Grildrig, which the family took up, and afterwards the whole kingdom. The word means mannikin, or little man. To her I owe my safety in that country; we never parted while I was there. I called her my Glumdalclitch, or little nurse. I should be very ungrateful if I did not tell of all her care

and love. I wish I could reward her as she deserves, instead of being, as I fear I was, the cause of her disgrace.

It now began to be known and talked of in the neighbourhood, that my master had found a tiny animal in the field, shaped in every part and behaving in every way like a human being. It seemed to speak a little language of its own, had already learnt several words of theirs, walked upright upon two legs, was tame and gentle, would come when it was called, do whatever it was bid, and had a fairer skin than a nobleman's daughter of three years old. Another farmer, who lived near by and was a great friend of my master, came on a visit to find out the truth of this story. I was at once taken out and placed upon a table. Where I walked as I was told, drew my sword, put it back again, bowed to my master's guest, asked him in his own language how he was, and told him he was welcome, just as my little nurse had

taught me. The man, who was old and dim-sighted, put on his spectacles to see me better. At this I could not help laughing, for his eyes looked like full moons shining through two round windows. My friends, seeing why I laughed, laughed too, at which the old fellow was fool enough to be angry. He was known as a miser and well deserved the title, for he advised my master to show me as a sight on a market day in the next town, which was a half-hour's ride, that is, about twenty-two miles from our house.

When I saw my master and his friend whispering together and sometimes pointing at me I guessed that some mischief was being planned. And my fears made me fancy that I overheard and understood some of their words. But the next morning Glumdalclitch, my little nurse, told me the whole truth, which she had found out from her mother. The poor girl laid me on her bosom and wept with shame and grief. She feared some harm

would come to me among rough people who might squeeze me to death, or break one of my limbs by taking me up in their hands. She had also noticed that I was modest and proud, and knew how I should hate to be shown for money to vulgar crowds. She said her father and mother had promised that Grildrig should be hers. But now she saw that they meant to treat her as they did last year, when they pretended to give her a pet lamb, and yet as soon as it was fat, sold it to a butcher. For myself I can truthfully say that I was less worried than my nurse. I had a strong hope that never left me, that I should one day gain my freedom. As for the disgrace of being shown and laughed at, I comforted myself with the thought that even the King of Great Britain in my place would have been forced to do the same.

According to his friend's advice, my master carried me in a box the next market day to the neighbouring town. His little daughter,

my nurse, rode on a pillion behind him. The box was closed on every side, with a little door for me to go in and come out, and a few gimlet holes to let in air. The girl was so careful as to put the quilt of her own bed into it for me to lie down on. However, I was terribly shaken and upset by this journey, though it took only half an hour. For the horse went about forty feet at every step and trotted so high that my box rocked like a ship in a great storm. My master stopped at an inn where he often lodged, and after making arrangements with the innkeeper, he hired the town crier to give notice through the streets that a tiny creature, exactly like a man, able to speak several words and do many amusing tricks, could be seen at the sign of the Green Eagle.

I was put on a table in the largest room of the inn, which was nearly three hundred feet square. My little nurse stood on a low stool close to the table, to take care of me and to say

what I should do. My master, to avoid a crowd, would allow only thirty people to see me at a time. I walked about on the table as the girl ordered. She asked questions I understood and I answered as loudly as I could. I turned about several times to the company, paid my humble respects, said they were welcome, and spoke some other words which I had been taught. I took up a thimble, which Glumdalclitch had given me for a cup, and drank their health. I drew my sword and flourished it. My nurse gave me part of a straw, which I used as a bayonet, having learnt the art in my youth. I was that day shown to twelve sets of people and forced to do the same silly tricks till I was half dead with weariness and vexation. For those who had seen me told such wonderful stories of my ways, that the people were ready to break down the doors to get in.

My master, for his own sake, would not let anyone except my nurse touch me. To

'My master . . . would allow only thirty people to see me at a time'

prevent danger, benches were put round the table at such a distance as to keep me out of everybody's reach. However, an unlucky schoolboy threw a hazel nut straight at my head. It just missed me, otherwise it came with such force that it would certainly have knocked out my brains, for it was almost as large as a small pumpkin. But I had the satisfaction to see the young rogue well beaten and turned out of the room.

My master gave public notice that he would show me again the next market day. Meanwhile, he got ready a better box for me, which he had need to do, for I was so tired with my first journey and with entertaining company for hours at a time that I could hardly stand on my legs or speak a word. It was at least three days before I got back my strength. And I had no rest even at home; for all the neighbouring gentlemen from a hundred miles round, hearing of my fame, came to see me at my master's own house. There

could be no fewer than thirty people with their wives and children. My master charged as much when he showed me to a single person as to a full room, so that for some time I had very little rest every day of the week, except Wednesday, which is their sabbath, although I was not taken to the town.

My master, finding how much money he could make out of me, decided to take me to all the large cities in the kingdom. Having, therefore, got together all things needful for a long journey, and settled his affairs at home, he took leave of his wife. And on August 17, 1703, about two months after my arrival, we set out for the capital city, which was near the middle of the kingdom, and about three thousand miles away from the farmer's house. My master made his daughter, Glumdalclitch, ride behind him. She carried me on her lap in a box tied round her waist. The girl had lined it on all sides with the softest cloth she could find, well padded underneath, furnished

it with her doll's bed, provided me with linen and other necessaries, and made everything as comfortable as she could. We had no other companion but a boy from the farm who rode behind us with the luggage. My master's plan was to show me in all the towns by the way and to go out of the road, for fifty or a hundred miles, to any village or large house where he might find customers. We made short journeys of not more than eighty-four or ninety-six miles a day. For Glumdalclitch complained for my sake that the trotting of the horse tired her. She often, when I asked her, took me out of my box to give me air and show me the country, but she always held me tightly by a rope. We passed over five or six rivers much broader and deeper than the Ganges. And there was hardly a stream so small as the Thames at London Bridge. Our journey took ten weeks and I was shown in eighteen large towns, besides many villages and private families.

On October 26 we arrived at the capital city, called in their language Lorbulgrud, or Pride of the Universe. My master took lodgings in the chief street not far from the royal palace and put out placards with an exact description of me. He provided a table sixty feet wide upon which I was to act my part, and fenced it round three feet from the edge to stop my falling over. I was shown ten times a day, to the wonder and satisfaction of all people. I could now speak the language quite well, and perfectly understood every word that was spoken to me. Besides, I had learnt their alphabet and could manage to explain sentences here and there. For Glumdalclitch had been my teacher while we were at home, and at spare hours in our journey. She carried a little book in her pocket, not much bigger than an English atlas, and out of this she taught me my letters and explained the words.

The hard work that I did every day soon

made me ill. The more my master got out of me the greedier he grew. I had quite lost my appetite, and had grown so thin that I was almost a skeleton. The farmer seeing this, and thinking that I should soon die, decided to make as much out of me as he could. While he was laying his plan, a gentleman came from the court and ordered him to take me to the palace for the amusement of the Queen. For some of her ladies had already seen me and told her much of my beauty and cleverness. Her Majesty and those with her were delighted by my tricks. I fell on my knees, and begged the honour of kissing her foot. But this kind princess held out her little finger towards me. I took it in my arms and put the tip of it, with the greatest respect, to my lips. She asked me some questions about my country and my travels, which I answered as distinctly and in as few words as I could. She asked if I should like to live at court. I bowed down to the tablecloth and humbly answered

'This kind princess held out her little finger towards me'

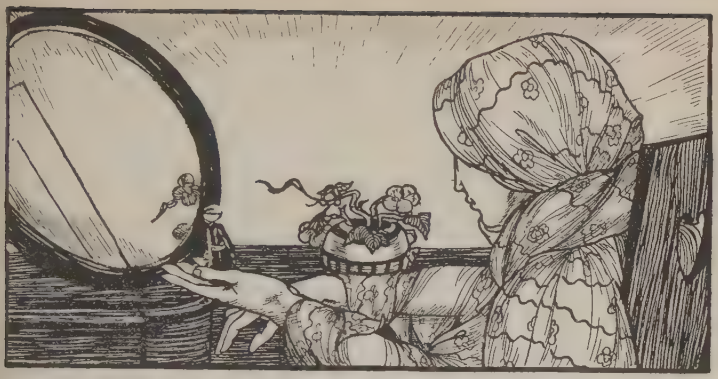
that I was my master's slave; but if I could do as I wished, I should be proud to spend my life as her servant. She then asked my master whether he was willing to sell me at good price. He, thinking that I could not live a month, was ready to part with me and asked for a thousand pieces of gold, which were given him on the spot. I then said to the Queen, that as I was now Her Majesty's servant, I must beg the favour that Glumdalclitch, who had always taken such care of me, and who understood so well how to do it, might be allowed to stay with me as my nurse and teacher. Her Majesty granted my wish and easily got the farmer's consent, for he was proud to have his daughter at court, while the girl herself was not able to hide her joy. My master said good-bye to me and told me that he was leaving me in good hands. I answered not a word, only making him a slight bow.

The Queen saw that I did not seem very

fond of him, and when he had gone she asked me the reason. I answered boldly that he had done nothing for me except in not killing me when he found me. That he had made a great deal of money out of me, and had worked me so hard that I was very ill. But now that I belonged to Her Majesty I was sure of kind treatment, and felt better already. In spite of my mistakes and blunders, the Queen was very surprised at so much wit and good sense in such a tiny animal. She took me in her own hand and carried me to the King, who was in his study. His Majesty, a very grave prince, not looking at me properly, asked the Queen how long it was since she had grown fond of mice, for such he thought me to be as I lay on my chest in Her Majesty's right hand. But she set me gently on my feet on the writing-table, and told me to give His Majesty an account of myself. This I did in a very few words; and Glumdalclitch, who had waited at the study door, because she could

not bear me out of her sight, told them that I was speaking the truth.

Although the King is as learned as any man in the country, yet when he saw me walk and heard me speak he thought that I must be made of clockwork. When he listened to me he could not hide his surprise. He then supposed that I was some animal trained to talk parrot-like by the farmer and his daughter, and unable to say more than the few words I had learnt by heart. But when he questioned me and found that I always gave sensible answers, he began to believe my story.



Chapter 3

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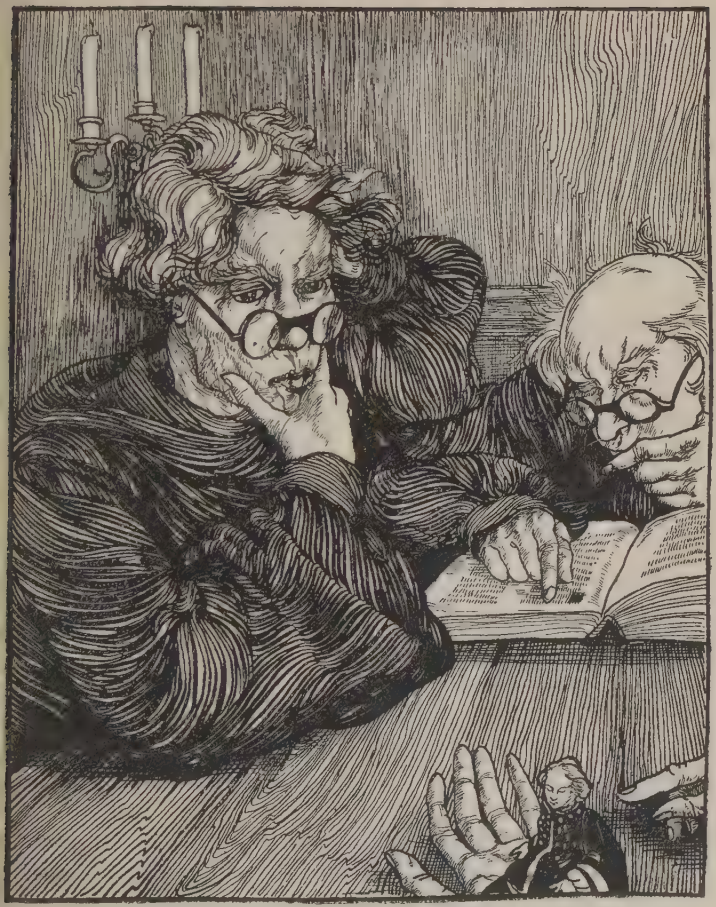
His Majesty sent for three great scholars to look at me. After they had studied me very carefully, they came to different opinions. But they all agreed that as I could neither run fast, nor climb trees, nor dig holes in the earth nor save my life in any other way, I must be something unnatural. They saw by my teeth that I was a meat-eating animal, yet as nothing but snails or insects were small enough for me to kill, they were puzzled as to how I managed to live.

After they had talked about me and settled the matter to their own liking, I asked that I might speak, and turning to the King, told him that I came from a country full of people of my own size, where the trees and houses and everything else were all small, so that I could live as comfortably as His Majesty's subjects did in their own country. At this the learned men smiled and answered that my master had taught me my lesson well. But the King, who had much more sense, sent them away and called the farmer, who by good luck had not yet left the town. Having questioned him alone and then seen us together, His Majesty began to think that what we told him might be true.

He asked the Queen to see that great care was taken of me; and that Glumdalclitch should still be my nurse, for he saw that we were very fond of each other. A comfortable room was given her at the palace; she had a governess to educate her, a maid to dress her,



'They studied me very carefully'

and two other servants; but she herself was to take care of me. The Queen ordered her own cabinet-maker to fit up a box as a bedroom for me. The man was a very clever artist and under my orders, in three weeks, finished for me a wooden room, sixteen feet square and twelve high, with sash windows, a door and two small dressing-rooms, like a London bedroom. The board that made the ceiling opened on two hinges, so that the bed ready made by Her Majesty's upholsterers could be put in. Every day Glumdalclitch took it out to air and make it with her own hands, and letting it down at night locked up the roof over me. A handy workman, who was famous for little curiosities, undertook to make me two chairs, with backs and frames of a stuff rather like ivory, and also two tables and a wardrobe in which to put my things. The room was padded on all sides as well as the floor and ceiling, to prevent any accident from the carelessness of those who carried me,

and to break the force of a jolt when I went in a carriage.

I wanted a lock for my door to prevent rats and mice from coming in. The smith, after several attempts, made the smallest ever seen in that country, for I have known a larger one on the gate of a gentleman's house in England. Although the key was large, I managed to keep it in my coat pocket, for I feared that Glumdalclitch might lose it. The Queen also ordered the thinnest silks that could be got to make me clothes. They were thicker than an English blanket and seemed very heavy till I got used to them. They were made in the fashion of the country, partly like Persian clothes, and partly like Chinese.

The Queen became so fond of me that she could not dine without me. I had a table placed upon the one at which Her Majesty ate, and a chair to sit on just by her elbow. Glumdalclitch stood on a stool on the floor near my table to help and take care of me. I

had a whole set of silver dishes and plates and other necessaries, which side by side with those of the Queen looked no bigger than the doll's-house dishes I have seen in a London toy-shop. My little nurse kept them in her pocket in a silver box, and gave them to me at meals as I wanted them, always cleaning them herself. No one dined with the Queen but the two princesses, the elder sixteen years old, and the younger at that time thirteen and a month. Her Majesty used to put a bit of meat on one of my dishes, from which I carved for myself. It amused her very much to see me eat such tiny morsels, for she herself, although she had a very poor appetite, took up at one mouthful as much as a dozen English farmers could eat at one meal. For some time it made me feel sick to watch her eat. She would crunch the wing of a lark, bones and all, between her teeth, although it were nine times as large as that of a full-grown turkey; and put a bit of bread as big

as two whole loaves in her mouth. She drank out of a golden cup, more than a barrelfull at a draught. Her knives were twice as long as a scythe set straight upon its handle. The spoons, forks and other things were all of the same size. I remember, when Glumdalclitch carried me out of curiosity to see some of the tables at court, where ten or a dozen of these huge knives and forks were lifted up together, I thought I had never seen so terrible a sight.

It is the custom, every Wednesday, which as I have said is their sabbath, for the King and Queen with the princes and princesses to dine together in His Majesty's room. I had now become a great favourite with him; and at these times my little chair and table were placed at his left hand, before one of the salt-cellars. The King took pleasure in talking with me and asking questions about the manners, religion, laws, government and learning in Europe, which I answered as well as I could. He made many wise remarks on

what I said. But he often could not help laughing, and taking me up in his right hand, stroked me gently with the other. Then turning to his chief minister, who stood behind holding a white rod nearly as tall as a ship's mast, he would say, 'How vain is human greatness when it can be copied by such tiny insects. I dare swear that these creatures build little nests which they call houses and cities, that they dress themselves up, love, fight, argue, cheat and betray.'

While he spoke I blushed to hear our noble country so laughed at. But as I could not stop them laughing I soon began to wonder if they were right. For after a few months I got so used to the size of these people, that a room full of English lords and ladies would have seemed as funny to me as I did to these giants. Indeed, I could not help smiling at myself when the Queen held me on her hand before a looking-glass, so that the two of us were shown in the glass together.

Nothing annoyed me so much as the Queen's dwarf, who was the smallest man ever seen in that country; indeed, I think he was not quite thirty feet high. He became very cheeky at seeing a creature so much smaller than himself. He would try to swagger and look big as he passed me in the Queen's room, while I was standing on some table and talking with the lords and ladies of the court. And he always made a joke or two about my littleness; to which I could only reply by calling him brother, daring him to wrestle with me and such-like smart sayings. One day at dinner something I said made him so angry, that, standing on Her Majesty's chair-rail, he took me up by the waist as I was sitting fearing no harm, dropped me into a large silver bowl of cream and then ran away as fast as he could. I fell over head and ears, and if I had not been a good swimmer, it might have gone very hard with me, for Glumdalclitch happened at that moment to

be at the other end of the room; and the Queen was so frightened that she could do nothing to help me. But my little nurse ran to my aid and took me out after I had swallowed more than a quart of cream. I was put to bed, but I suffered nothing more than the loss of a suit of clothes, which were quite spoilt. The dwarf was soundly whipped, and as a further punishment forced to drink up the bowl of cream into which he had thrown me. The Queen never cared for him again, and soon after gave him to a noble lady, so that I saw him no more, for which I was very glad, for I feared his revenge.

He had before played me a nasty trick, which made the Queen laugh, although at the same time she was very angry, and would have sent him away, if I had not begged her to forgive him. Her Majesty had just put a marrow bone on her plate, and after knocking out the marrow stood it up on the dish. The dwarf, watching his chance, while Glumdal-

'The dwarf dropped me into a large bowl of cream'

clitch had turned to the sideboard, mounted the stool on which she stood to take care of me, took me up in both hands and, squeezing my legs together, wedged me into the bone up to my waist. Here I stuck for some time, looking very foolish. I believe it was about a minute before anyone knew what had become of me, for I was too proud to cry out. But as kings and queens do not often get their food hot, my legs were not scalded, only my stockings and breeches were in a terrible state. Thanks to me, the dwarf had no other punishment than a sound whipping.

I was often teased by the Queen for being so frightened. She used to ask me whether all the people in my country were such cowards. The reason she laughed at me was this. The kingdom is much troubled with flies in the summer. These hateful insects, each as big as a lark, hardly gave me any rest while I sat at dinner with their everlasting humming and buzzing about my ears. Sometimes they

would fix upon my nose or forehead, stinging me and smelling very nasty. I had a hard job to defend myself from these hateful insects and could not help starting when they came on my face. It was the habit of the dwarf to catch a number of flies in his hand, as schoolboys do in England, and let them out suddenly under my nose, on purpose to frighten me and make the Queen laugh. All I could do was to cut them in pieces with my knife as they flew in the air, and my skill in doing this was much admired.

I remember one morning, Glumdalclitch had put my box on the window-sill, as she generally did on fine days, to give me air. For I did not dare to let the box be hung on a nail as we do birdcages in England. After I had opened one of my windows and sat down at my table to eat a piece of sweet cake for my breakfast, more than twenty wasps, attracted by the smell, came flying into the room, humming louder than as many bag-

pipes. Some of them seized my cake and carried it away bit by bit. Others flew about my head and face, deafening me with their noise and putting me in great fear of their stings. However, I had the courage to draw my sword and attack them in the air. I killed four, but the rest got away, and I shut my window at once. These insects are as large as partridges. I took out their stings, found them an inch and a half long, and as sharp as needles. I carefully kept them all, and when I got back to England I gave three to Gresham College and kept the fourth myself.

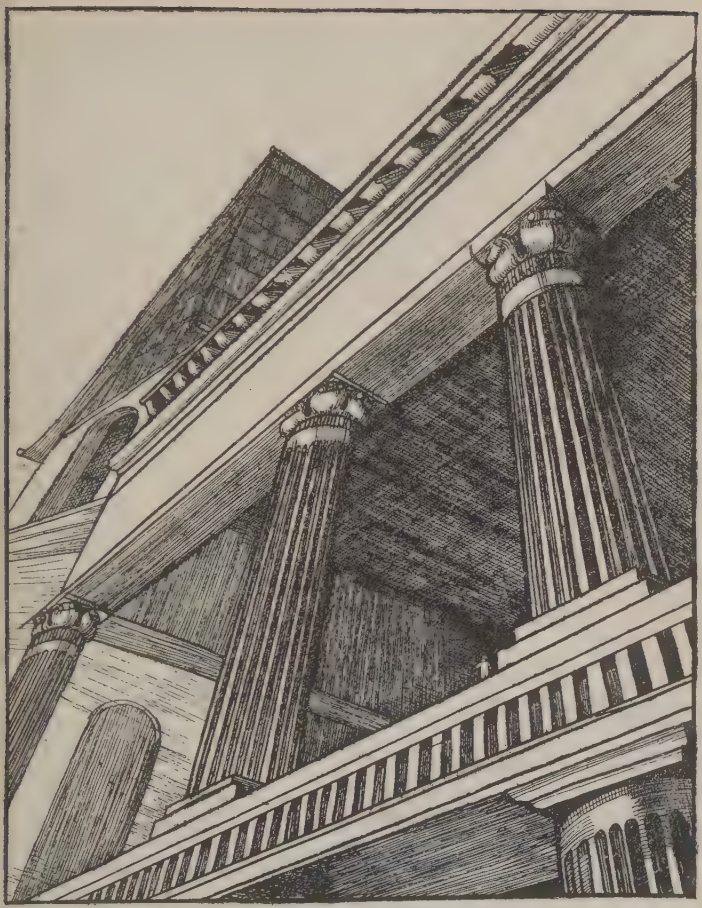
I now mean to give the reader a short description of this country, as far as I travelled in it, which was not more than two thousand miles round Lorbrulgrud, the capital. For the Queen, whom I always attended, never went any farther. The whole country is about six thousand miles long and from three to five thousand broad. It is a peninsula, bounded

on three sides by the sea, and on the other by mountains that no one can climb. There is not one port, and the sea near the shore is so full of rocks that not even the smallest of their boats could get past. In this way they are quite cut off from the rest of the world. There are plenty of fish in the rivers; but they do not get any from the sea, because these are the same size as ordinary fish and are not worth catching. However, now and then they take a whale that happens to be dashed against the rocks and the poorer people enjoy eating it. I have known these whales so large that a man could hardly carry one on his shoulders. Sometimes, for a curiosity, they are brought in a hamper to Lorbrulgrud. I saw one of them in a dish at the King's table. But he did not seem very fond of it, I think; indeed, its bigness disgusted him, although I have seen one larger in Greenland.

I measured the size of Lorbrulgrud by means of the royal map, which the King

ordered to be laid on the ground for me. I paced over this map several times barefooted and got a fair idea of its size. The King's palace is a pile of buildings, seven miles round; the chief rooms are generally two hundred and forty feet high. Glumdalclitch and I were allowed a coach in which her governess often took her out to see the town and shops; I always went with them in my box. But the girl would often lift me out and hold me in her hand so that I could see the houses and people as we passed along the streets.

Besides the large box in which I was usually carried, the Queen ordered a smaller one about twelve feet square and ten high to be made for travelling. Because the other was too big for Glumdalclitch's lap and took too much room in the coach. My new box was made by the same workman. It was an exact square with a window in the middle of three walls and each window barred with iron wire on the outside to prevent accidents on long



'The chief rooms are generally 240 feet high'

journeys. On the fourth side, which had no window, two strong hooks were fixed, through which the person who carried me when I wished to go on horseback, put a leather belt and buckled it round his waist. This was always the duty of some wise servant whom I could trust. I travelled in this way when I went with the King or Queen, or wished to see the gardens, or to pay a visit to some great lord or lady and Glumdalclitch was not able to come with me. In journeys when I was tired of the coach, a servant on horseback would buckle on my box and place it on a cushion in front of him. And there I had a full view of the country from my three windows. I had in this box a camp bed and a hammock hung from the ceiling, two chairs and a table, neatly screwed to the floor to prevent them from being tossed about by the movement of the horse or coach. As I had long been used to sea voyages, these shakings did not much upset me.

Whenever I wished to see the town, I always went in my travelling box, which Glumdalclitch held on her lap in a kind of open sedan chair, carried by four men. The people, who had often heard of me, used to crowd round this chair, and the girl would hold me in her hand so that they might see me. I wanted very much to visit the chief temple; for its tower is said to be the highest in the Kingdom. One day my nurse took me there; but I must say I was disappointed, for it is not more than three thousand feet high, which, allowing for the difference in the size of the people, is not equal to some of the buildings in Europe. But what the tower lacks in height it makes up in beauty and strength. For the stone walls are a hundred feet thick, and are covered on all sides by marble statues. I measured a little finger which had fallen down from one of these statues, and lay unnoticed among some rubbish. It was exactly four feet and one inch long. Glumdalclitch wrapped it up in her

handkerchief and carried it home in her pocket to keep among other trinkets of which she was very fond.

The King's kitchen is a fine room about six hundred feet high. The great oven is not so wide by ten paces as the dome of St. Paul's, which I measured when I got back to England to make sure. If I should describe the kitchen grate, the huge pots and kettles, the joints of meat turning on the spits and many other wonders, no one would believe me. For fear of which I have gone to the other extreme; and, if this book is ever translated into the language of Brobdingnag, which is the name of that giant country, the people will say that I have given an untrue report, and made every thing too small.

His Majesty does not often keep more than six hundred horses in his stables. They are generally from fifty-four to sixty feet high. But when he goes out on great days, he is followed by a guard of five hundred horses.

Which I thought the most splendid sight that could be imagined, until I saw part of his army; but I shall speak of that another time.

Chapter 4

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I SHOULD have lived happily enough in this country if my littleness had not always been getting me into difficulties, some of which I will describe to you. Glumdalclitch often carried me into the palace gardens in my smaller box, and she would sometimes take me out of it and hold me in her hand or put me down to walk. I remember one day before the dwarf left the Queen, he followed us into the gardens; and my nurse having put me down near some dwarf apple trees, I made

a silly joke about their size and his. He, therefore, watched his chance when I was walking under one of them, and shook it right over my head. A dozen apples, each as large as a beer barrel, came tumbling about my ears. One of them hit me on the back as I chanced to stoop, and knocked me flat on my face. But I was not hurt, and the dwarf was pardoned at my wish, because I had teased him.

Another day Glumdalclitch left me on a smooth plot of grass to amuse myself, while she walked some way off with her governess. While she was gone, there suddenly fell a heavy storm of hail, that knocked me flat on the ground. And when I was down the hailstones banged me all over as if I were being pelted with tennis balls. However, I managed to creep on all fours and shelter myself, by lying flat on my face on the lee side of a border of lemon thyme. But I was so bruised from head to foot that I could not go out for ten days. Neither is it at all surprising, for in

that country a hailstone is nearly eighteen hundred times larger than one in Europe. I know that this is the truth because I have weighed and measured them.

But a more dangerous accident happened to me in the same garden. My little nurse, thinking she could safely leave me, as I often asked her to do, so that I might enjoy my own thoughts, and having left my box at home to save the trouble of carrying it, went to another part of the garden with her governess and some ladies who were her friends. While she was gone and out of hearing, a small white spaniel, which belonged to one of the chief gardeners, having got loose by accident, happened to wander near where I lay. The dog following the scent, came up at once, and taking me in his mouth, ran straight to his master, wagged his tail and put me gently on the ground. By good luck, he had been so well taught that he carried me between his teeth without in the least hurting

'The dog, taking me in his mouth, ran straight to his master'

me, or even tearing my clothes. But the poor gardener, who knew me well and had a great liking for me, was in a terrible fright. He lifted me gently up in both his hands and asked me how I felt. But I was so surprised and out of breath that I could not speak a word. In a few minutes I came to myself, and he carried me safely to my little nurse, who by this time had come back to the place where she left me, and was very worried when I did not come or answer to her calls. She scolded the gardener severely about his dog. But the thing was hushed up and never known at court. For the girl was afraid of the Queen's anger, and I knew I should be laughed at if the story got about.

After this accident, Glumdalclitch made up her mind never to trust me out of her sight. I had feared she would do this, and had, therefore, hidden from her some unlucky little adventures that had happened when I was by myself. Once a kite, hovering over the

'The smaller birds did not seem to be at all afraid of me'

garden, made a swoop at me. And if I had not drawn my sword and run under a thick bush he would certainly have carried me away in his claws. Another time, walking over the top of a fresh mole-hill, I fell up to my neck in the hole through which the mole had thrown up the earth, and had to think of some excuse for having spoilt my clothes. I likewise broke my right shin against a snail-shell, which I happened to stumble over as I was walking along and thinking of poor England.

I cannot tell whether I was pleased or hurt to notice in my lonely walks, that the smaller birds did not seem to be at all afraid of me. They would hop about within a yard, looking for worms and other food, just as if there were no one near them. I remember a thrush had the daring to snatch out of my hand with his beak a piece of cake that Glumdalclitch had just given me for my breakfast. When I tried to catch any of these birds they would turn boldly against me, trying to peck my fingers,

which I dared not trust within their reach. Then they would hop back to hunt worms and snails as before. But one day I took a thick stick and threw it with all my strength so luckily at a linnet, that I knocked him down, and seizing him with both hands, I ran in triumph to my nurse. However, the bird, which had only been stunned, recovered and gave me so many bangs with his wings on both sides of my head and body, though I held him at arm's length and was out of reach of his claws, that I thought twenty times I should have to let him go. But one of the servants came to my help and wrung the bird's neck and I had him next day for dinner by the Queen's command. This linnet, as far as I can remember, was somewhat bigger than an English swan.

The Queen, who had often heard me talk of my voyages, and who took every chance to amuse me, for I was often very sad, asked one day whether I could manage a sail or an oar,

and whether a little rowing would not be good for me. I answered that I understood such things well. For although my real business had been as ship's doctor, yet often at a pinch I was forced to work like an ordinary sailor. But I could not see how this could be of use in their country where the smallest boat was as large as our greatest warship, and any boat that I could manage would be upset at once in their rivers. Her Majesty answered that if I would plan a boat, her carpenter should make it, and she would find a place for me to sail. This fellow was a clever workman, and under my orders, he finished in ten days a pleasure boat with all its rigging large enough to hold eight ordinary men. When it was ready, the Queen, full of delight, ran with it in her lap to the King. He ordered it to be put in a tank full of water, but I could not row there for want of room. The Queen, however, had thought of another plan. She ordered the carpenter to make a wooden

trough three hundred feet long, fifty broad and eight deep, which, being well tarred to prevent leaking, was placed on the floor along the wall in an outer room of the palace. There was a cork near the bottom to let out the water when it began to grow stale; and two servants could easily fill it in an hour. Here I used often to row for my own amusement, as well as for the delight of the Queen and her ladies, who loved to watch me.

Sometimes I would put up my sail, and then my only work was to steer, while the ladies gave me a wind with their fans. And when they were weary, some of the pages would blow my boat forward with their breath, while I showed my skill by steering to either side as I pleased. When I had done, Glumdalclitch always carried my boat back to her room and hung it on a nail to dry.

In this sport I once met with an accident which almost cost me my life. One of the pages having put my boat into the trough,

Glumdalclitch's governess interferingly lifted me up to sit me in it. But I happened to slip through her fingers, and would certainly have fallen forty feet to the floor, if, by the greatest luck in the world, I had not caught on a pin, which stuck in the good lady's belt. For the head of the pin passed between my shirt and the waistband of my breeches and I was held by the middle in the air, till Glumdalclitch ran to my help.

Another time, one of the servants, whose duty it was to fill my trough every third day with fresh water, was so careless as to let a huge frog slip unnoticed out of his pail. The frog lay hidden till I was put into my boat. But then seeing a resting-place, he climbed up and made the boat lean so much on one side, that I had to throw all my weight on the other to save it from overturning. When the frog got in, it hopped at once half the length of the boat, and then over my head, backwards and forwards, daubing my face

'I asked Glumdalclitch to let me deal with it alone'

and clothes with its hateful slime. Its huge size made it seem the most hideous animal that can be imagined. However, I asked Glumdalclitch to let me deal with it alone. I banged it a good while with one of my oars and at last forced it to jump out of the boat.

But the most dangerous enemy that I met in this country was a monkey, which belonged to one of the clerks of the kitchen. One day Glumdalclitch had locked me up in her room, while she went somewhere upon business or a visit. The weather being very warm, the window of the room was left open, as well as the window and door of my bigger box, in which I usually lived, because it was more comfortable. As I sat quietly thinking at my table, I heard something bounce in at the window, and skip about from one side of the room to the other. Although I was very frightened, I dared to peep out, not moving from my seat, and saw this monkey frisking and leaping up and down. At last he came up to my

box, which seemed to please him, for he peeped in at the door and at every window. I crept into the farthest corner, but was so frightened that I had not the sense to hide myself under the bed, as I might easily have done. After some time spent in peeping, grinning and chattering, he caught sight of me, and putting one of his paws in at the door, played with me as a cat does with a mouse, chasing me from one corner of the box to another. At last he seized my coat and dragged me out. He took me up in one of his front paws and held me as a nurse does a child; and when I tried to struggle, he squeezed me so hard that I thought it best to lie still. I believe he mistook me for a young monkey, for he stroked my face very gently with his paw. While he was doing this, he was frightened by a noise at the room door as if some one were opening it. At once he jumped out of the window, climbed along the gutter, and sprang upon the roof, walking with three

legs and holding me in the fourth. I heard Glumdalclitch give a shriek as he carried me out. The poor girl was almost mad. That part of the palace was all in an uproar. The servants ran for ladders. The monkey was seen by hundreds from the courtyard, sitting upon a ridge of the roof, holding me like a baby in one of his front paws and feeding me with the other, cramming between my lips some nuts that he had squeezed out of his own mouth, and patting me when I would not eat. At this sight many of the crowd laughed, and I cannot blame them, for it was funny enough to anyone but myself. Some of the people threw up stones, hoping to drive the monkey down; but this was forbidden, for a stone might have killed me. The ladders were now put up, and when the monkey saw men coming and found that he could not run fast enough on three legs, he dropped me on the roof and made his escape. Here I sat for some time, five hundred yards from the ground, thinking

'The monkey was sitting upon a ridge of the roof, holding me like a baby'

every minute that I should be blown down by the wind, or fall by my own giddiness and come tumbling over and over into the gutter. But a good boy, one of my nurse's footmen, climbed up, and putting me into his breeches pocket, brought me safely down.

I was almost choked with the filthy stuff the monkey had crammed down my throat. But my dear little nurse picked it out of my mouth with a small needle and I felt much better. Yet I was so weak and bruised by the squeezing of this hateful animal that I had to stay in bed for a fortnight. The King, the Queen and all the court sent every day to ask after my health, and Her Majesty often visited me. The monkey was killed and an order given that no such animals should be kept near the palace.

Every day I gave the court a new joke to laugh at. For Glumdalclitch, although she loved me dearly, was teasing enough to tell the Queen of all my funny accidents. One

day the girl, who had not been very well, was taken by her governess for a drive in the country about thirty miles from the town. They got out of the coach near a small foot-path in a field, and Glumdalclitch putting down my travelling box, I stepped out of it for a walk. There was a cake of mud in the path, and I had to show off my activity by trying to jump over it. I took a run, but unfortunately jumped short and landed in the middle up to my knees in mud. I waded through with some trouble and one of the footmen wiped me as clean as he could with his handkerchief. But I was very dirty, and my nurse shut me up in my box till we got home. The Queen heard the story and the footman spread it about the court, so that for some days every one was laughing at me.

I used to be carried to the King's bedroom once or twice a week, and often watched while he was shaved. This was at first a terrible sight, for the razor was almost twice as long

as an ordinary scythe. His Majesty, as is the custom of that country, is only shaved twice a week. I once got the barber to give me some of the used lather, out of which I picked fifty of the strongest stumps of hair. I then took a piece of fine wood and cut it like the back of a comb, and with the smallest needle I could get from Glumdalclitch I made several holes in it at equal distances. In these I stuck the hairs, shaping and pointing them with my knife, making myself quite a good comb. I certainly needed one, for the teeth of my own were broken and no workman in the country could make me another.

This reminds me of an amusement in which I spent much of my time. I asked the Queen's waiting-woman to save the combings of Her Majesty's hair for me, and when I had got a good quantity, I told the carpenter to make me two chair frames and to bore little holes in the backs and seats. Through these holes I wove the strongest hairs I could pick out,

just as they make cane chairs in England. When these chairs were finished I made a present of them to Her Majesty, who kept them in her cabinet and used to show them as curiosities, for they were the wonder of every one who saw them. The Queen would have liked me to sit on one of these chairs, but I refused to obey, saying I would rather die a thousand deaths than sit on one of Her Majesty's precious hairs. Of these hairs I also made a neat little purse, about five feet long, with Her Majesty's name woven on it in gold letters. This I gave to Glumdalclitch with the Queen's leave. To say the truth, it was more for show than use, not being strong enough to hold heavy money; and she kept nothing in it but some little knicknacks.

The King was very fond of music and often had concerts at court, to which I was sometimes carried and put in my box on the table to listen. But the noise was so loud that I could hardly make out the tunes. I am sure

that all the drums and trumpets of the English army, sounding right in your ears, would not make such a din. I usually had my box put as far off as possible. I then shut all the doors and windows and drew my curtains, after which I did not find the noise unpleasant.

When I was young I had learnt to play the piano a little. Glumdalclitch kept one in her room and a master came twice a week to teach her. A fancy entered my head to please the King and Queen with an English tune on this piano. But this seemed difficult, for it was nearly sixty feet long, and each note almost a foot wide, so that with my arms stretched out I could not reach more than five of them. And to press them down was hard work, for it needed a good thump with my fist. However, I thought of a plan, which worked very well. I got two round sticks thicker at one end than at the other, and covered the thick ends with pieces of mouse skin, so that in banging with them I should not hurt the

notes. A bench was put in front of the piano, about four feet lower than the keys, and I ran up and down on it, banging the right notes with my sticks. In this way I managed to play a jig, to the great delight of the King and Queen. But it was the hardest work I ever did, although I could not strike more than sixteen notes and was not able to play the bass and treble together, which rather spoilt my tune.

The King has a library of about a thousand books, which I was able to read with the help of a ladder made for me by the Queen's carpenter. I began on the top step, and walked slowly to the right as I read the words, going down a step when I wanted to begin the next line, and so reaching the bottom of the page.

The King's army is made up of a hundred and seventy-six thousand foot and thirty-two thousand horse soldiers. I often saw some of these troops drawn up for exercise in a great field near the city. Each soldier on horse-

back was about ninety feet high. I have seen them, at a word of command, draw all their swords at once and wave them in the air. Nothing could be grander or more wonderful, it looked as if ten thousand flashes of lightning were darting at the same time from every part of the sky.

Chapter 5

*

I HAD always believed that I should some time get back my freedom, although it was impossible to guess how this would happen, or to make any plan of escape. The ship in which I had come was the first ever known to be driven near that country; and the King had given strict orders, that if at any time another was seen, it be taken ashore and brought in a wheelbarrow with all its crew to Lorbrulgrud. I was, indeed, treated with much kindness, for I was the favourite of a great King and Queen and the delight of

the whole court; but I could not forget my family; I longed to be with people of my own size, and able to walk about the streets and fields without the fear of being trodden to death like a frog or young puppy. But my escape came sooner than I expected, and in a very strange way, as I shall tell you.

I had now been two years in this country; and about the beginning of the third, Glumdalclitch and I went with the King and Queen on a state visit to the south coast of the Kingdom. I was carried as usual in my travelling box, which, as I have already said, was a very comfortable room about twelve feet wide. I had ordered a hammock to be fixed by silken ropes from the four corners at the top, to break the jolts when a servant carried me in front of him on horseback. And I would often sleep in my hammock while we were travelling. On the roof of my box, not right over the middle of the hammock, I ordered the carpenter to cut a hole of a foot square to

give me air in hot weather as I slept. I could shut this hole when I wished with a board that slid backwards and forwards over it.

When we came to our journey's end, the King thought it right to spend a few days at a palace he has near Flanflasnic, about eighteen English miles from the seashore. Glumdalclitch and myself were very tired with the journey. I had caught a little cold, but the poor girl was so ill that she had to stay in bed. I longed to be near the sea, from which my only chance of escape would come. I, therefore, pretended to be worse than I really was and asked leave to take the sea air with a page of whom I was very fond, and who had sometimes been trusted with me. I shall never forget how sad Glumdalclitch was to let me go, and the strict orders she gave the page to be careful of me, at the same time bursting into tears, as if she knew what was going to happen. The boy took me out in my box about half an hour's walk from the palace, towards

the rocks on the seashore. There I ordered him to put the box down, and opening one of my windows looked sadly out to sea. I did not feel very well, and told the page I would take a nap in my hammock, as I thought it would do me good. I got in and the boy shut the window tightly to keep out the cold.

I soon fell asleep, and I suppose that while I slept the page, thinking no danger could come to me, climbed among the rocks to look for birds' eggs. For I saw him from my window searching about and picking up one or two from holes in the cliffs. But whatever happened, I was suddenly awakened by a great jerk at the ring which was fastened to the top of my box, so as to make it easier to carry. I felt myself raised very high in the air, and then carried forward at a great rate. The first jolt nearly shook me out of my hammock, but after that I went along smoothly enough. I called many times as loudly as I

could, but it was no use. I looked out of my window and could see nothing but clouds and sky. I heard a noise just over my head like the flapping of wings, and I began to understand what had happened. Some eagle had got the ring of my box in his beak. Soon he would let it fall on a rock, smashing it to pieces so that he could pick out my body and eat it. In a little time, I found that the noise and flutter of wings grew much louder, and my box was tossed up and down like a shop sign on a windy day. I heard several bangs given to the eagle which held the ring of my box in his beak. Then all of a sudden I felt myself falling straight down for over a minute, and so fast that I almost lost my breath. My fall ended with a terrible splash, that sounded louder in my ears than the Niagara Falls. After this I was quite in the dark for another minute, and then my box rose again, high enough for light to show through the tops of the windows. I now understood that

I had fallen into the sea. My box, from the weight of my body, my goods and the broad iron plates that were fixed at the corners to strengthen it, floated about five feet deep in the water. I think that the eagle which flew away with my box must have been chased by two or three others and forced to let me drop while he fought the rest, who hoped to share my body. The plates of iron fastened to the bottom of the box kept it straight while it fell, and stopped it from being broken when it hit the water. Every joint fitted tightly and the door did not open on hinges, but slid up and down like a sash window, so that very little water came through. With much trouble I got out of my hammock, having first opened the hole in the roof to let in some air, for I was almost stifled.

How often did I then wish myself with my dear Glumdalclitch, from whom one hour had parted me for ever. And I can truthfully say that in all my trouble, I could not help

grieving for my poor nurse, who would suffer so much sorrow and disgrace at my loss. Not many travellers, perhaps, have been in greater danger than I now was. I expected every minute to have my box dashed to pieces, or overturned by a big wave. A crack in one of the window-panes would have meant death, and only the iron bars kept them from breaking. I saw the water oozing in at several holes; but the leaks were not very large and I stopped them up as well as I could. I was not able to lift up the roof of my box, otherwise I might have climbed out and sat on the top of it, so as to save my life a few hours longer. But if I were not drowned in a day or two, I should certainly die from cold and hunger. I spent four hours in these sad thoughts, expecting, and indeed wishing, every moment to be my last.

As I have already said, there were two strong hooks fixed on that side of my box which had no window. Through these, the

servant who carried me on horseback used to put a leather belt and buckle it round his waist. Sitting sadly in my box, I heard, or thought I heard, a kind of grating noise on the side where these hooks were fixed. And soon I began to fancy that the box was being pulled or towed through the sea. For I now and then felt a sort of tugging, which made the waves splash up to the tops of my windows, leaving me almost in the dark. This gave me some little hope, although I could not guess how help would come. I dared to unscrew one of my chairs, which were all fastened to the floor, and managed to screw it down again right under the open hole in the roof. I then stood on the chair, and putting my mouth as near the hole as I could, called loudly for help in all the languages I understood. I also fastened my handkerchief to a stick and waved it through the hole, so that if any ship were near the sailors might guess that some unfortunate man was shut up in the box.

All this was no use; but I noticed that I moved steadily along, and in about an hour the windowless side of my box, in which the hooks were fastened, struck against something hard. I feared it was a rock, for I found myself more tossed about than ever. I plainly heard a noise upon the cover of my box like the dragging of a rope as it went through the iron ring. I then felt myself being pulled up very slowly at least three feet higher than I was before. I poked out my stick and handkerchief at once, calling for help till I almost lost my voice. In answer I heard three great shouts which filled me with joy. There was now a trampling of feet overhead, and somebody called loudly through the hole in English, 'If there is anyone in there, let him speak.' I answered that I was an Englishman in great trouble, and begged them to let me out of my prison. The voice replied that I was safe, for my box was fastened to their ship; and the carpenter should come at once

and saw a hole in the lid large enough for me to be pulled out. I answered that there was no need to do this; it would take too much time. One of the sailors could just put his finger through the ring, lift my box out of the sea, and carry it into the captain's cabin. When they heard me talk so wildly, some thought I was mad and others laughed. For, indeed, it never came into my head that I was now with people of my own size and strength. The carpenter came, and in a few minutes sawed a hole about four feet square; then let down a small ladder, up which I climbed and was taken on board the ship.

The sailors were full of surprise and asked me a thousand questions, which I did not want to answer. I was just as surprised to see so many pigmies; for I had lived with giants so long that ordinary men seemed dwarfs. The Captain, Mr. Thomas Wilcocks, an honest Shropshireman, seeing I was fainting with weakness, took me into his own cabin, where

he gave me something to drink and forced me to lie down on his own bed, for I had great need of rest. Before I went to sleep I explained to him that I had some fine furniture in my box, which was too good to be lost; a hammock, a camp-bed, two chairs, a table and a cupboard, also my room was padded on all sides with silk and cotton. I promised that if he would let one of the crew bring my box into his cabin, I would open it in front of him, and show him my goods. Hearing me talk such nonsense, the captain thought I must be mad, and to quiet me promised to do everything I wished. And going on deck he sent some men down into my box. They took out all my goods, and stripped the silk from the walls. But the chairs, cupboard and bedstead, which were fastened to the floor, were much hurt by the stupid sailors, who tore them up by force. When they had hammered off some of the boards for use in the ship and had taken all they wanted, they let the box sink;

which it quickly did, because of the many holes they had made in it. I am glad I was asleep at the time, for the sight would have made me very sad.

I slept some hours, but had bad dreams of the place I had left and of my many dangers. But when I woke up I felt much better. It was now about eight o'clock in the evening, and the captain, knowing that I had eaten nothing for a long time, ordered supper at once. He treated me with great kindness, and when we were left alone, asked me to tell him about my travels, and to explain how I came to be alone at sea in that huge wooden box. He told me that about midday, as he was looking through his telescope, he caught sight of it a long way off. And thinking that it was another ship he tried to catch it up, with the hope of buying some biscuits, for his own were almost gone. Getting nearer, and seeing his mistake, he sent out a boat to find what this strange thing really was. His men came

back in a fright, saying that they had seen a swimming house. But he laughed at them and went himself in the boat, ordering his men to bring a strong rope with them. The weather being calm, he rowed round me several times, noticing my windows and the iron bars over them. He then saw two hooks on the windowless side of the box, and ordered his men to row up and fasten a rope to one of them. In this way my box was towed to the ship. When they arrived he gave orders to fasten another rope to the ring in the lid and to raise up the box with pullies. But they found that they could not lift it more than three feet. He told me that they had seen my stick and handkerchief waving out of the hole and understood that some unhappy man must be shut up in the box. I asked whether he or the crew had seen any very large birds in the air, about the time when he first sighted me. He answered that, talking with the sailors while I was asleep, one of them

had seen three eagles flying towards the north, but had not noticed that they were larger than ordinary birds. I suppose that they seemed small to him because they were so high in the air. I then asked the captain how far we were from land, and he answered that by the best reckoning he could make, we were at least a hundred miles away. I told him he must be mistaken, for I had not left Brobdingnag for more than two hours before I fell into the sea. At this he began to think I was mad again, and advised me to go to bed in a cabin he had got ready for me. I told him that I was very well rested and as sensible as ever I was in my life. He then asked me whether I had been put in that box and cast adrift as a punishment for some great wickedness, and said, that although he was sorry to have such a man on his ship, yet he would put me safely ashore at the first port we reached. He added that I had talked so wildly to the sailors about my box and had

'I showed him the small collection of curiosities'

said such queer things to him that he was sure he had guessed the truth.

I begged him to hear my story, which I told him from the time of my leaving England up to the moment when he found me; and he at once believed what I said. To prove the truth of my story, I asked him to order a sailor to bring my cupboard, the key of which I had in my pocket. When it came, I opened it and showed him the small collection of curiosities I had got together in Brobdingnag. There was the comb I had made out of the stumps of the King's beard and another with the back made of a paring from the Queen's finger-nail. There was a collection of needles and pins from a foot to half a yard long, four wasp stings, some combings from the Queen's hair, a gold ring which she one day gave me in the kindest way, taking it from her little finger and throwing it over my head like a collar. I wanted the captain to keep this ring in return for all his kindness, but he

would not take it. I showed him a corn that I had cut off myself from a maid of honour's toe. It was about as big as a large apple and so hard that when I arrived in England I had it hollowed into a cup and set in silver. Last of all I asked him to look at my breeches, which were made of a mouse's skin.

I could not make him keep anything, except a footman's tooth to which he took a great fancy. It had been pulled out in mistake by a bad dentist and was quite sound, and I had had it cleaned and put in my cupboard. It was about a foot long and four inches wide. The captain was quite satisfied with my story and said he hoped I would write a book about my travels. One thing surprised him very much, and that was to hear me talk so loudly. He asked me if the King or Queen of Brobdingnag were deaf that I had got into the habit of shouting. I told him that I had been used to talking like that for over two years, and that the voices of him and his sailors sur-

prised me just as much, for although I could hear them quite well, they all seemed to be whispering. Because in Brobdingnag, unless I was put on a table or held in some one's hand, I was like a man in the street trying to talk to another at the top of a steeple. I also told him, that when I first came on board and the sailors stood all round me, I thought they were the smallest creatures I had ever seen. For, indeed, while I was in Brobdingnag I could not bear to look at myself in the glass, so used was I to the huge size of everything in that country.

The captain said that while we were at supper, he had seen me look at everything with a sort of wonder and had noticed that I often could not keep myself from laughing aloud. But he had thought that all this came from my madness. I answered that he could hardly expect me not to laugh when I saw his dishes the size of a silver threepenny-piece, a leg of pork hardly a mouthful and a cup not

as big as a nutshell, and so I went on to talk of all his things. The captain understood my jokes, and answered with an old English proverb that he feared my eyes were bigger than my stomach, for I did not eat like a giant although I had had nothing all day. He added that he would gladly have given a hundred pounds to see my box in the eagle's beak, and watch it fall from so great a height into the sea.

The captain was on his way home to England from the West Indies. We had a most fortunate voyage and arrived at Dover on June 3, 1706. We here said good-bye to each other and he refused to take any of my goods as payment for his kindness. I then hired a horse and set out towards my home. On the way, noticing the smallness of the houses, people and animals, I began to think I was in Lilliput again. I was afraid of trampling on every traveller I met, and often called to them to get out of my way; indeed, I

nearly got one or two black eyes for my rudeness.

When I came to my own house, to which I had to ask the way, one of the servants opened the door and I went down on all fours to go in for fear of banging my head. My wife ran out to throw her arms round me, but I stooped lower than her knees, thinking that otherwise she would not be able to reach my mouth. My daughter knelt down to ask my blessing, but I could not see her till she got up, for I had been used to stand with my head in the air looking upwards. I then tried to lift her up by the waist with one hand, and was surprised when I could not do it. I looked down on the servants and one or two friends who were in the house as if they had been pigmies, and I a giant. I told my wife that she had been too thrifty while I was away, for she had starved herself and her daughter to nothing. In short, I behaved so strangely that they thought at first I had lost my wits. But

in a little time we came to a right understanding. My wife vowed I should never go to sea again. But ill luck, as you shall hear, once more forced me to travel. Meanwhile, I will now end the second book of my voyages.

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